



**Date: Sept 1, 2015**

**Memo To:** Town of Bluffton Town Council; Don Ryan Center for Innovation Board of Directors; Marc Orlando, Town Manager

**From:** David Nelems, Don Ryan Center for Innovation Executive Director

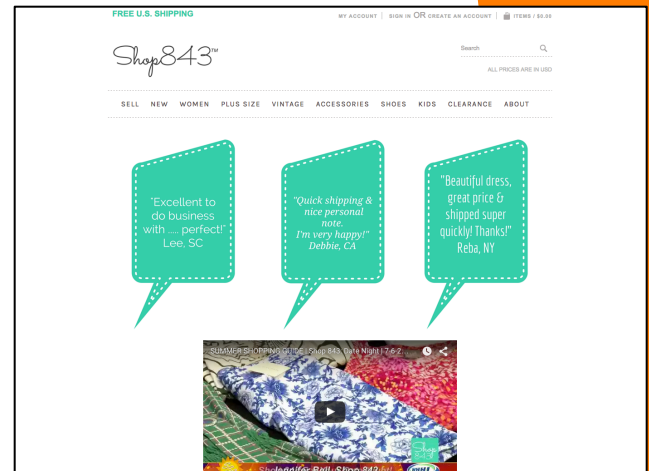
**RE: AUGUST 2015 DON RYAN CENTER FOR INNOVATION REPORT**

## CENTER OPERATIONS

- Continuing to work with SmartMarketing to **promote the DRCI.**
- Continuing work on **DRCI Golf Event** – meetings every two weeks.
- Site visit to **Palmetto Bluff** for upcoming Golf event.
- Launch of the **membership program** to allow more people to become “benefactors” of the DRCI with the purchase of an annual membership.
- Continuing to work on **sponsorships for golf event.**
- Approved several new submissions to **LowcountryWORKS.com.**
- Working on logistics for a **graduation event** to be held at Golf Awards event.
- Meeting with Lucy Rosen of Smart Marketing regarding a “**speaking and fundraising tour**”.
- Met with **three potential mentors.**
- DRCI **Board meeting** on August 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Meeting with **Trisha Greathouse** regarding better operational procedures between **DRCI and Finance Dept.**
- Preparing to startup **monthly education sessions** again in September.
- Working with local contacts and ones in **Columbia and Charleston** to try to help start a **local Angel group for start-up company funding.**

## INNOVATORS

- Currently there are **10 innovators** in the Center. We now have **12 graduates**.
- Met with **every innovator at least once** (some multiple times) during the month. A lot of progress with each company.
- Working with **Le Dome** and **Shop843** on ecommerce websites.
- Coordinating prototype development for **Elongator**.
- Finalized contract between **Taylor Offshore** and distributor in **South Africa and Australia**.
- Tour of the **manufacturing facility for Le Dome**.
- Helping **Scionz** with testing protocols for use at **Waddell Mariculture Center**.
- Coordinated/envisioned service offering for **Monroneylables.com** and **Sonic Automotive**.



## OUTREACH AND STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS

- **Working with SCAD** about year two of partnership in entrepreneurship sessions. These sessions are scheduled to begin in late September.
- Met with Marc Orlando and Bob Newbert about the DRCI helping with **the Bluffton Heritage Trail App**.
- Meeting with **Mike Reichenbach** about more involvement with DRCI and automotive-based innovators.



## TOWN OF BLUFFTON OPERATIONS

- Attended **Town Council meeting**.
- Attended **Senior Staff meetings**.
- Various meetings with **Town Manager**.
- Attended **Town of Elloree meeting**.
- Consulted on **TOB Annual Report** format and design.
- Attended **August TOB Cookout**.

